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(EDA). The Southeast Louisiana Economic Development District includes Jefferson, Orleans, Plaguemines, St. Bernard, and St. Tammany Parishes.

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"More than four years after Katrina and Rita caused so much devastation, many Louisianans are still struggling to piece their lives together," said Rep. Melancon. "I strongly support this investment by the Economic Development Administration in southeast Louisiana to help us continue rebuilding our infrastructure and to strengthen our economy.

"When I ran my small businesses, I got to see firsthand how important our regional economic development commissions are in creating jobs and improving opportunities for local entrepreneurs. In Congress, I will continue to support federal investments that will grow our economy and create more jobs for our workers."

Today's announcement follows <u>last week's announcement</u> of \$360,000 in federal investments for two other south Louisiana economic development organizations from the Economic Development Administration. The Acadiana Regional Development District, which includes Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary Parishes in Congressman Melancon's Third Congressional District, received an \$180,000 federal investment from the Economic Development Administration. Another grant of \$180,000 was awarded to the South Central Planning and Development Commission, which serves St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Assumption, Lafourche, and Terrebonne Parishes.

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